LPG Connections to Bhopal Gas Victims

5735. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had agreed to provide LPG connections "as much as required in Bhopal to the gas victim of Union Carbide";

(b) if so, whether a detailed scheme was submitted by the State Government to Central Government;

(c) if so, whether the State Government had provided all the necessary information as demanded by the Central Government;

(d) whether it is a fact that Central Government has not so far taken any final decision in regard to the scheme;

(e) if so, what are the main reasons for the delay; and

(f) by when the scheme will be cleared so that the affected people are helped?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (f) The State Government of Madhya Pradesh had requested the Department of Chemicals and Petro Chemicals that LPG connections may be provided liberally to the victims of the Bhopal Gas tragedy. That Department in turn has advised that 50,000 to 60,000 new connections may be required to meet the demand of the gas victims. New LPG connections are released depending on the approved enrolment of the customers, slack availabe with the distributors in the State, waiting list and product availability. Hence it has not been found feasible to released such a large number of new LP G connections to the disaster victims, as a package. Persons registered with LPG distributors are released connections on their turn.

Committee for identifying ports to facilitate import of LPG

5736. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Committee set up by the Petroleum Ministry for identifying ports for setting up facilities to receive imported liquified petroleum gas has submitted its report;

(b) if so, what are the main recommendations of the report; and

(c) what is Government's reaction in respect thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) The two committees, one for the West Coast and the other for the East Coast, appointed to identify suitable minor port locations for development of LPG import facilities have submitted their reports.

(b) The main recommendations of the Committees are as follows:

(i) It is feasible to develop LPG import facilities atleast at 12 minor ports of the West Coast and 4 of the East Coast.

(ii) Detailed risk analysis needs to be carried out before taking final decision on developing these ports.

(iii) Certain safety measures have to be taken while discharging LPG from the ship to onshore installations.

(iv) Roll-on-Roll-Off concept and Dontoon Jelly concept may be tried for discharge of LPG through minor ports having shallow draft.

(c) Infrastructural facilities may be developed at the identified port locations independently or jointly by the port authorities of the respective